



*Suggested Remarks By Brigadier General Don T. Riley, Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, at the Midwest Natural Resources Group Environmental Round Table  
Madison, Wisconsin, 13 November 2002*

**GOOD MORNING, AND WELCOME TO THE SECOND DAY OF THE 2002 ENVIRONMENTAL ROUND TABLE.**

**I AM GENERAL DON RILEY, COMMANDER OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION.**

**IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT, AFTER TAKING COMMAND OF THE DIVISION IN SEPTEMBER, I WAS AWAY FOR AN EXTENDED TRAINING SESSION, AND I HAVE BEEN IN THE OFFICE IN VICKSBURG FOR ONE DAY.**

**HOWEVER, I COULD NOT BE MORE PLEASED TO BE IMMEDIATELY TAKING PART IN THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.**

**IN ADDITION, I LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING AS CHAIR FOR THE GROUP AND WORKING WITH EACH OF YOU OVER THE NEXT YEAR.**

**DISCUSSIONS HERE WILL FOCUS ON ISSUES THAT RELATE TO MY INTENT FOR THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION: TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WATERSHED WITH AN EFFECTIVE BALANCE OF ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS.**

**TWO OF MY GOALS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION:**

- **BUILD A PROCESS TO CONSIDER THE LONG-TERM WATERSHED IMPACTS OF ALL OUR WORK – THE DIVISION DOES NOT YET HAVE THE SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS THOROUGHLY – WE MUST WORK TO BUILD IT. HOWEVER, WE DO HAVE A VERY GOOD CORE OF PROFESSIONALS WITH SOLID ENGINEERING AND SCIENTIFIC SKILLS.**

- **BUILD EFFECTIVE STRATEGIC COALITIONS – I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION WILL ACCOMPLISH VERY LITTLE IF WE DO NOT DO THIS WELL. AND IT IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SUCCEED IN OUR WORK FOR THE NATION.**

**THERE ARE TOO MANY COMPETING INTERESTS INVOLVED IN OUR WORK FOR US TO ATTEMPT TO MOVE FORWARD ALONE OR WITH ONLY A NARROW TEAM.**

**UNDERSTAND THAT I AM VERY FOCUSED ON BUILDING A PROCESS FOR EFFECTIVE, LONG-TERM WATERSHED PLANNING.**

**AND THIS FORUM IS ADDRESSING BOTH TOOLS AND INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO SUCH A PROCESS -- IN THE CONTEXT OF TREATING NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT LOADING AND INVASIVE SPECIES.**

**SO I -- ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE SENIOR MANAGERS -- AM VERY INTERESTED IN HEARING WHAT YOU HAVE CONCLUDED IN YOUR BREAKOUT GROUPS AND FOCUS AREA MEETINGS TO ADDRESS OUR THEMES AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES.**

**NOW, LET ME TURN THE MEETING OVER TO MR. JOHN SOWL OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO GET US STARTED.**

**I UNDERSTAND WE HAVE A TIGHT SCHEDULE TO KEEP, SO LET'S PROCEED.**